

Honorable Members:

I wish to register my opposition to House Bill 6818 which proposes to establish tolls on Connecticut 1-84 and I-95.

Tolls on these interstate roads would be an unfair burden to those residents who live near the borders of the State, since many citizens must cross the state borders to commute to work on a daily basis -- either by automobile or to reach a train station. This cost would represent a pay cut in a tight labor market where pay raises are hard to come by!

Toll stations, or other means of collecting the tolls, will inevitably slow down traffic often due to the need for the motorist to produce cash if they do not have the authorized electronic device. To avoid the toll, many motorists will use local roads, thereby increasing traffic with resultant hazards on the local streets.

As a longtime resident of Danbury, I recall the time when tolls were established on I-95 but not placed on I-84. The result was that in order to avoid paying the tolls on I-95 the truck use of I-84 dramatically increased. The lesson is that traffic on toll-free roads, even roads not designed for trucking, in order to avoid payment will dramatically increase -- even when those roadways are local and not designed for trucking. Not a good prospect to look forward to for local citizens!

Thank you for fairly representing those taxpayers who will be unfairly affected by the instituting of tolls, and even subjected to the unnecessary hazards of motorists eager to avoid paying a toll.

Dr. Richard G. Rausch
7 Ridge Road
Danbury, CT 06810